

# FACT SHEET



## ***Pretty Prairie Asbestos Site Pretty Prairie, Kansas***

***August 1999***

### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will be overseeing a removal action at the Pretty Prairie Asbestos Site in Pretty Prairie, Kansas. The site, located at 208/210/212 West Main Street, was formerly used as a boiler repair facility. EPA has issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to the potentially responsible parties. Under the UAO, the potentially responsible parties are required to conduct a removal action to reduce the threat posed by the presence of asbestos contamination at the site. On-site removal activities will begin August 1999 and are projected to be complete by September 1999.

### **SITE BACKGROUND**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) initially received a call from the City Clerk of Pretty Prairie, during the last week of February 1999. City officials were concerned about the site because of friable (easily crumbled) asbestos outside and inside the building, which was easily accessible by the public. There presently is no fencing or other means of security around the property.

A determination was made that the site currently contains an estimated 9,000 square feet of friable asbestos scattered over the entire site. During the initial evaluation, the KDHE determined that asbestos levels presented a human health concern and exceeded federal limits. On March 12, 1999, KDHE asked EPA to pursue all enforcement efforts necessary to address hazardous substances and contamination at the property. EPA performed a removal assessment on March 26, 1999, confirming the extent of the contamination and the threat presented to public health.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, authorizes EPA to conduct removal actions at a site whenever a hazardous substance is released or there is a threat of a release to the environment. A threat is present at this site because asbestos is considered friable and can easily become airborne by wind gusts. Asbestos has been linked to several health concerns, primarily lung disorders.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Immediate actions by the responsible parties will include placing warning signs around the property to restrict access, and installing a wind barrier around the perimeter of the site. The removal phases will include the removal of all friable asbestos, both inside and outside the main building. Since the asbestos has been laying on the ground and has migrated across the property over time, some soil will have to be excavated from the site. A significant amount of contaminated debris, including automobile parts and other miscellaneous items located on the property, will also have to be decontaminated or removed and transported for proper disposal.

All friable asbestos-containing waste will be placed in protective bags for removal. During all removal actions, the asbestos will be saturated with water and air monitoring will be performed to ensure that the contaminants do not become airborne because of the removal activities. One of the final activities will be to restore the site by placing clean soil in the excavated areas and grading and revegetating the property.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

Dana Blubaugh, Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 7, Office of External Programs  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
(913) 551-7003 or toll free at 1-800-223-0425  
e-mail: [blubaugh.dana@epa.gov](mailto:blubaugh.dana@epa.gov)